

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00429 01 OF 02 221046Z

13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 /054 W

----- 121470

R 211707Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 872

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 429

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: STRIKE SITUATION

REF A. MADRID 160 B. BARCELONA 40

BEGIN SUMMARY: PAST WEEK HAS WITNESSED CONTINUATION HIGHLY  
POLITICIZED STRIKES IN PAMPLONA AREA, WITH CONTINUING SIT-IN  
PROTEST OF 100 MINERS IN POTASSIUM MINE ACTING AS CATALYST.  
ELSEWHERE THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DIMINUTION OF STRIKE  
ACTIVITY, SUCH AS IN BARCELONA AREA WHERE LENGTHY SEAT  
STRIKE HAS ENDED, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, AND WHERE  
GENERAL STRIKE ATTEMPT PROVED DISMAL FAILURE. DEATH OF  
WHITE COLLAR WORKER IN SHOOTOUT WITH POLICE IN BILBAO AREA  
ON JAN 20 MIGHT POSSIBLY HEAT UP LABOR SITUATION ONCE AGAIN,  
ALTHOUGH THIS APPEARS UNLIKELY. OTHER FEATURES OF LABOR  
SCENE DURING PAST WEEK HAVE BEEN: (A) INCREASED  
INVOLVEMENT OF CHURCH IN CURRENT LABOR DISPUTES WITH TWO  
PROMINENT ARCHBISHOPS SPEAKING OUT ON LABOR ISSUES; (B)  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 00429 01 OF 02 221046Z

INCREASINGLY RECURRING ISSUE OF WORKER REPRESENTATIVITY

IN STRIKES: AND (C) A NOTICEABLE CRACKDOWN BY THE GOVT IN LABOR DISPUTES, COMBINED WITH ACCELERATED GOVT EFFORTS TO END STRIKES INVOLVING CONTRACT TERMS BY ISSUANCE OF COMPULSORY ARBITRATION DECISIONS MORE OR LESS FAVORABLE TO WORKER DEMANDS. END SUMMARY

1. PAMPLONA AREA OF NAVARRE REMAINS PRINCIPAL FOCUS LABOR TENSION, WHERE DURING PAST WEEK BETWEEN 10,000 AND 14,000 PAMPLONA WORKERS HAVE BEEN IDLED DUE TO STRIKES AND RETALIATORY LOCKOUTS. ACTING AS CATALYST FOR CURRENT PAMPLONA STRIKE ACTIVITY, WHICH ALSO HAS BECOME HIGHLY POLITICIZED DESPITE ORIGINAL LABOR AND ECONOMIC MOTIVATIONS BEHIND STRIKES, IS CONTINUING SIT-IN AT BOTTOM OF POTASSIUM MINE SHAFT BY 100 STRIKING MINERS, NOW IN 15TH DAY. THIS SIT-IN, OCCASIONED BY SUSPENSION THESE WORKERS FOR PREVIOUS STRIKE ACTIVITY, HAS PROMPTED WIDESPREAD SOLIDARITY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT PAMPLONA INDUSTRIAL AREA. LAST WEEK WITNESSED CLASHES WITH POLICE BY STRIKING WORKERS SUPPORTED BY FAMILY MEMBERS, WHO ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS SOUGHT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO MARCH ON MINE WHERE STRIKERS WERE STAGING PROTEST SIT-IN AND WHO ALSO ATTEMPTED ABORTED PROTEST MANIFESTATION IN PAMPLONA STREETS. REPORTEDLY, PRINCIPAL CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUP INVOLVED IN POLITICIZING PAMPLONA SITUATION HAS BEEN CATHOLIC EXTREMIST ORT, OR REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS ORGANIZATION, WHICH HAS ITS STRONGEST ORGANIZATION IN PAMPLONA AREA AND RECEIVES MUCH OPEN SUPPORT FROM PROGRESSIVE CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND EVEN FROM LOCAL HIERARCHY.

2. IN BARCELONA, SEAT STRIKE AND RELATED DISTURBANCES, WITH PROTEST MARCHES BY SMALL GROUPS OF WORKERS IN CENTRAL BARCELONA, CONTINTUED UNTIL JAN 14. ON JAN 15, THERE WAS CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE IN BARCELONA AREA, WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS NEAR-TOTAL FAILURE. LATEST SEAT COMPANY LOCKOUT AGAINST ITS WORKERS ENDED JAN 14 AND VAST MAJORITY OF WORKERS RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS AND HAVE CONTINUED WORKING TO DATE WITH ONLY MINOR SCATTERED ATTEMPTS AT DISRUPTION IN FACTORY. BARCELONA AREA RELATIVELY CALM DURING RECENT DAYS. LABATT, DURING JAN 16-17 VISIT TO BARCELONA, WAS TOLD PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR ABRUPT DIMINUTION STRIKE ACTIVITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 00429 01 OF 02 221046Z

IN BARCELONA DUE TO: (A) CRACKDOWN, APPARENTLY ON BASIS OF HIGHER ORDERS, BY BARCELONA CIVIL GOVERNOR (ONE OF NOTABLE FEATURES UNTIL JAN 15 WAS RELATIVE TOLERANCE BARCELONA AUTHORITIES IN ALLOWING WORKERS TO MARCH THROUGH STREETS AND PUBLICLY LET OFF STEAM); AND (B) REPORTED WITHDRAWAL SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE), PRINCIPAL ELEMENT IN DOMINANT WORKERS COMMISSIONS, FROM SEAT STRIKE. SOME OTHER BARCELONA STRIKES, SUCH AS AT

"GALLINA BLANCA" (BORDER ASSOCIATE), APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SETTLED, WHEREAS STILL OTHERS, SUCH AS OLIVETTI STRIKE, ARE CONTINUING BUT ON MUCH MORE SPORADIC BASIS. THERE IS REPORTEDLY AN APPEAL FOR ANOTHER BARCELONA GENERAL STRIKE STARTING JAN 23, BUT IN VIEW OF UNSUCCESSFUL JAN 15 GENERAL STRIKE ATTEMPT ANY NEW SUCH ATTEMPT IS UNLIKELY EVEN GET OFF GROUND.

3. STRIKE ACTIVITY ELSEWHERE HAS ALSO SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT. ONE NEW AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED JAN 20 WHEN AN ARMED WHITE COLLAR WORKER WAS SURPRISED BY POLICEMEN IN BILBAO INDUSTRIAL SUBURB DISTRIBUTING PCE PROPAGANDA IN SUPPORT OF PAMPLONA STRIKERS, AND IN ENSUING SHOOTING MATCH WAS FATALLY WOUNDED. THIS IS FIRST WORKER DEATH IN SPAIN IN MORE THAN YEAR AND IT COULD LEAD TO SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATIONS. HOWEVER, FACT THAT KILLING OF WORKER TOOK PLACE IN EARLY HOURS OF MORNING IN ISOLATED AREA, THAT WORKER WAS ARMED, AND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL OTHER RECENT DEATHS IN SHOOTOUTS IN BASQUE PROVINCES (OF POLICE AND BASQUE TERRORISTS), WILL PROBABLY TEND MAKE THIS INCIDENT LESS EXPLOSIVE.

4. BILBAO AREA DURING PAST WEEKS HAS ALSO EXPERIENCED REDUCTION LABOR DISPUTES EXCEPT FOR CONTINUING STRIKE 3,000 WORKERS AT "ALTOS HORNOS" STEEL MILL. ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY THERE STILL NUMBER OF LABOR DISPUTES. IN VALLADOLID A CALL WAS ISSUED BY CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS FOR GENERAL STRIKE ON JAN 20, WHICH, HOWEVER, ALSO REPORTEDLY PROVED TO BE A NEAR-TOTAL FAILURE.

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00429 02 OF 02 221103Z

13  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 /054 W  
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R 211707Z JAN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 873

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 429

5. INCREASINGLY PROMINENT FEATURE OF LABOR SCENE THIS PAST WEEK IS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED CHURCH INVOLVEMENT. THUS (A) ON JAN 13-14 WORKERS AND ACTIVIST PRIESTS STAGED SIT-INS IN BARCELONA CATHEDRAL IN SUPPORT OF WORKERS INVOLVED IN A NASTY STRIKE AT SMALL CUMBRE FACTORY THERE; (B) IN PAMPLONA 20 PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS RECENTLY INITIATED A SIT-IN AND HUNGER STRIKE AT BISHOP'S PALACE IN SUPPORT OF POTASSIUM MINERS SIT-IN; (C) RELATIVELY LIBERAL ARCHBISHOP OF PAMPLONA ISSUED STATEMENT APPEALING FOR LABOR PEACE IN HIS DIOCESE, WHILE LARGELY SUPPORTING DEMANDS; AND (D) MOST SURPRISINGLY, HERETOFORE ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE REGIME SUPPORTER, ARCHBISHOP CANTERO CUADRADO OF ZARAGOZA (WHO IS ONE OF TWO BISHOP MEMBERS OF CORTES), ISSUED STATEMENT URGING CIVIL AUTHORITIES TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT LACK OF RIGHT TO STRIKE, AND ABOUT GRANTING WORKERS BASIC TRADE UNION RIGHT TO STRIKE, AND ABOUT GRANTING WORKERS BASIC TRADE UNION RIGHTS SUCH AS FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND OF PARTICIPATION, ALTHOUGH HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE ENVISAGED SUCH FREEDOMS WITHIN STRUCTURES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MADRID 00429 02 OF 02 221103Z

PRESENT GOVT-CONTROLLED SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO).

6. RECURRENT THEME IN MANY RECENT STRIKES AND KEY UNRESOLVED ISSUE AT SEAT (WHERE STRIKE COULD BREAK OUT AGAIN AT ANY MOMENT) HAS BEEN ISSUE OF WORKER REPRESENTATIVITY. AT SEAT WORKERS HAVE INSISTED THAT SHOP STEWARDS ELECTED THROUGH SSO MECHANISM FOUR YEARS AGO NO LONGER REPRESENT THEIR INTERESTS AND THEY HAVE ELECTED, IN PLANT ASSEMBLIES, THEIR OWN SUPPOSED REPRESENTATIVES (MANY OF WHOM ARE ACTIVIST PLANT WORKERS COMMISSIONS LEADERS) WHOM THEY INSIST PLANT MANAGEMENT SHOULD DEAL WITH OVER HEADS OF OFFICIAL SHOP STEWARDS. STRENGTHENING ARGUMENT THESE WORKERS WAS FACT MORE THAN HALF OFFICIAL SHOP STEWARDS HAVE PRESENTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS TO MAKE WAY FOR UNOFFICIAL PLANT LEADERS, WHILE SEAT MANAGEMENT AND SSO AUTHORITIES HAVE REFUSED TO ACCEPT THESE RESIGNATIONS.

7. MOST NOTICEABLE IN PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN WHAT APPEARS BE GOVT DECISION CRACKDOWN ON LABOR DISTURBANCES AND STRIKES.

IN BARCELONA, FOR EXAMPLE, CIVIL GOVERNOR ON JAN 15 CALLED IN SPECIAL RIOT BRIGADE FROM VALLADOLID WHILE LOCAL POLICE CHANGED THEIR THERETOFORE TOLERANT TACTICS AND BEGAN TO DEAL VIGOROUSLY WITH STREET DEMONSTRATIONS IN SUPPORT OF STRIKERS. ADDITIONALLY, INTERIOR MINISTER GARCIA HERNANDEZ IN A JAN 18 SPEECH STRESSED THAT GOVT WOULD MAINTAIN LABOR PEACE AND WOULD UPHOLD PRINCIPLE OF AUTHORITY AGAINST ALL ATTEMPTS TO UTILIZE LABOR DISPUTES TO PERTURB PUBLIC ORDER. IN COMBINATION WITH THIS APPARENT NEW HARD LINE TACK, GOVT HAS BEEN MAKING A MARKED EFFORT DURING LAST WEEK TO END CONTINUING STRIKES OVER COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BY ISSUING COMPULSORY ARBITRATION DECISIONS IN SEVERAL MAJOR STRIKES, WHICH DECISIONS FREQUENTLY ARE RELATIVELY FAVORABLE TO WORKERS AND MEET MANY, IF NOT MOST, OF THEIR ECONOMIC DEMANDS. (A COMPULSORY ARBITRATION DECISION HAS JUST BEEN ISSUED WITH RESPECT TO LONG-STANDING OLIVETTI TYPEWRITER PLANT DISPUTE, ALTHOUGH IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT WILL HAVE EFFECT OF DEFINITELY ENDING STRIKE).

8. SOMETHING OF LULL IN STRIKE SITUATION MAY HAVE NOW ARRIVED, ALTHOUGH IT LIKELY TO BE ONLY TEMPORARY SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 00429 02 OF 02 221103Z

SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LABOR DISPUTES REMAIN UNRESOLVED AND THERE STILL CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT AMONG CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS TO KEEP LABOR SCENE HEATED UP. LABOR SITUATION, HOWEVER, MAY QUIET DOWN SOMEWHAT ONCE GOVT ANNOUNCES CALENDAR FOR ITS PROMISED SPRING SSO SHOP STEWARD ELECTIONS, INASMUCH AS ENERGIES AND EFFORTS OF WORKERS AND CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS ARE LIKELY THEN BE FOCUSED TOWARDS OBJECTIVE OF GETTING THEIR OWN SHOP STEWARDS ELECTED.  
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## Message Attributes

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